

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 DPW-01 IO-10 AID-05 /081 W

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R 171035Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO AMEMBASSY BANGUI

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1165

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USDEL JEC PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR VS CT

SUBJ: POTOLOT VISIT TO VIETNAM

REF: A. SAIGON 15415, B. 15495

1. SUMMARY: CAR FONMIN MADE HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL VISIT TO SAIGON DEC 11-14. POSITIONS TAKEN WERE SUPPORTIVE OF GVN STANCE VIS A VIS THE COMMUNISTS. CAR COMMITTED TO ACCREDITING AMB TO SAIGON. POTOLOT REAFFIRMED PRES BOKASSA'S INTENTION TO VISIT VIETNAM BUT GAVE NO SPECIFIC COMMITMENT ON TIMING. END SUMMARY.

2. CAR FONMIN JOSEPH POTOLOT HAS CONCLUDED WHAT GVN FON MINISTRY TELLS US WAS HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL 4-DAY VISIT TO SOUTH VIETNAM. MFA ESPECIALLY HAPPY THAT POTOLOT ENDORSED GVN OFFER TO RE-OPEN UNCONDITIONALLY NEGOTS WITH THE COMMUNISTS AND THAT CAR FONMIN REITERATED PUBLICLY PRES BOKASSA'S INTENTION TO VISIT VIETNAM NEXT YEAR. FON MINISTRY ALSO PLEASED THAT CAR WILL ACCREDIT ITS AMB RESIDENT IN TAIPEI TO SAIGON.

3. ARRIVING IN SAIGON ON DEC 11, POTOLOT WAS MET BY FONMIN VUONG VAN BAC WHO ACCOMPANIED HIM TO A BRIEF AIRPORT PRESS CONF WHERE

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POTOLOT EXPRESSED GREETINGS FROM BOKASSA AND STATED THAT HIS

PRESENT VISIT WOULD PREPARE THE GROUND FOR A BOKASSA VISIT PERHAPS AS EARLY AS NEXT SPRING. THAT EVENING POTOLOT WAS HONORED AT A DINNER HOSTED BY BAC AT WHICH SEVERAL HIGH-RANKING GVN OFFICIALS AND THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS WERE IN ATTENDANCE.

4. ON DEC 12, POTOLOT HELD TALKS AT THE FONMINISTRY AND CALLED UPON GVN LEGISLATIVE LEADERS AND THE PRES OF THE SUPREME COURT. THE FOLLOWING DAY HE WAS RECEIVED BY PRES THIEU AND PRIMIN TRAN THIEN KHIEM. POTOLOT REPORTEDLY VISITED NGUYEN THI HUE, MARTINE BOKASSA'S MOTHER, ON 2 OCCASIONS, AND SHE WAS AMONG THOSE AT THE AIRPORT TO SEE HIM OFF.

5. IN THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE, ISSUED AS HE DEPARTED DEC 14, POTOLOT ASSOCIATED HIMSELF WITH GVN POSITION THAT "NORTH VIETNAMESE COMMUNISTS" ARE TO BLAME FOR CONTINUED FIGHTING IN VIETNAM AND SUPPORTED GVN CALL FOR RENEWED NEGOTS WITHOUT PRECONDITIONS. HE REAFFIRMED THE GOCAR REGARDS THE GVN AS THE SOLE LEGITIMATE GOVT OF SOUTH VIETNAM. POTOLOT ALSO AFFIRMED THE NECESSITY TO ACCREDIT AND AMB TO VIETNAM IN THE NEAR FUTURE AND INVITED BAC TO VISIT THE CAR. A "FORTHCOMING" VISIT BY PRES BOKASSA WAS MENTIONED IN THE COMMUNIQUE BUT NO DETAILS WERE OFFERED. IN AN AIRPORT NEWS CONF AS HE LEFT POTOLOT FOLLOWED CLOSELY THEMES IN COMMUNIQUE.

6. A VISIT BY GVN FONMIN BAC TO CAR HAD BEEN PLANNED FOR THE NEAR FUTURE (REF A) BUT WAS NOT INCLUDED ON HIS FINAL SCHEDULE (REF B). MFA TELLS US IT WAS AGREED WITH POTOLOT THAT JANUARY VISIT BY BAC TO CAR WOULD FOLLOW TOO CLOSELY ON POTOLOT VISIT TO SAIGON, AND THAT RETURN VISIT SHOULD BE RE-SCHEDULED AT A LATER DATE.
MARTIN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, MINISTERIAL VISITS, AMBASSADORS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 DEC 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974SAIGON15529
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740366-0859
From: SAIGON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741229/aaaaayin.tel
Line Count: 90
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 74 SAIGON 15415, 74 15495
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 MAY 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <24 MAR 2003 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POTOLOT VISIT TO VIETNAM
TAGS: PFOR, VS, CT, (POTOLOT, JOSEPH)
To: BANGUI
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005